

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 EPG-02 TRSE-00

STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 ACDA-07 MC-02 EA-07 /114 W

-----011640 201453Z /44

R 201113Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4669

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 2064

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USMISSION EC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, EAID, EINV, MASS, PINS, PLOS, SU, XT

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN ATTITUDES TOWARD SUDAN

SUMMARY: EUROPEANS APPEAR TO BE ATTACHING INCREASING

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SIGNIFICANCE TO SUDAN WHICH IS SEEN TO BE OF ECONOMIC
AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO EUROPE. MOREOVER AS
SITUATION IN HORN UNRAVELS NIMEIRI EMERGING AS MOST
ATTRACTIVE REGIONAL LEADER AND ONE WHO IS WORTHY OF
SUPPORT. THUS EUROPEANS WILL MAKE MAJOR ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE EFFORT AND ENCOURAGE TRADE AND INVESTMENT.
THEY APPEAR QUITE WILLING SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO

SUDAN. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS HERE, IT BECOMING CLEAR EUROPEANS IN GENERAL ATTACHING GREATER IMPORTANCE TO SUDAN. FOR EXAMPLE, GERMAN DCM TOLD ME SUDAN IS CONSIDERED BY BONN TO BE MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRY IN AFRICA AFTER EGYPT. FRENCH EMBOFF CONFIRMED RECENT REPORTING FROM AMEMBASSY PARIS THAT FRENCHGOV CONSCIOUSLY EXPANDING RELATIONS WITH SUDAN. DUTCH, BRITISH, SCANDINAVIANS AND CANADAIAANS ALL ACTIVELY PURSUING PROGRAMS HERE. MOST DRAMATIC EVIDENCE OF EUROPEAN INTEREST IS \$100 MILLION EEC ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GETTING UNDERWAY UNDER LOME AGREEMENT. IN ADDITION, MOST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE SUBSTANTIAL BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

2. EUROPEANS HAVE BEEN ATTRACTED BY SUDAN'S POTENTIAL AS FOOD PRODUCER AND ALREADY SUDANESE FOOD EXPORTS TO EUROPE ARE INCREASING. MOREOVER, EUROPEANS WANT TO CAPITALIZE ON TRILATERAL OPPORTUNITIES RESULTING FROM EXPECTED LARGE-SCALE ARAB INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE HERE. FRENCH EMBOFF SAID HIS GOVERNMENT LOOKING TOWARD MAJOR EXPANSION ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SUDAN, IN PART TO OVERCOME TRADITIONAL FAVORABLE BALANCE OF TRADE SUDAN ENJOYS WITH FRANCE.

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3. IN ADDITION TO ECONOMIC PROSPECTS, HOWEVER, EUROPEANS ATTACH STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO SUDAN. AS NOTED BY FRENCH EMBOFF, PETROLEUM DELIVERIES VIA RED SEA ARE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO EUROPE, AND FRIENDLY, STABLE SUDAN IS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL TO ASSURE CONTINUED FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN RED SEA. HE SAID THAT IN RECENT VISIT TO PARIS NIMEIRI ASSURED GISCARD D'ESTAING SUDANGOV WANTS RED SEA OPEN TO INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING AND THAT BAB EL-MANDEB SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN. FRENCH EMBOFF THOUGHT IT WAS SIGNIFICANT THAT SUDANESE LEADERS HAD STOPPED REFERRING TO RED SEA AS ARAB LAKE AND INSTEAD WERE CALLING IT LAKE OF PEACE.

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R 201113Z JUN 77

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KHARTOUM 2064

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4. EUROPEAN CONCERN OVER SAFETY AND OPENNESS OF RED
SEA APPARENTLY HAS INCREASED AS SOVIET INFLUENCE IN
ETHIOPIA GROWS AND AS OVERALL HORN SITUATION REMAINS
VOLATILE. WITH REGIONAL PROBLEMS IN MIND THEY SEEM
TO SEE NIMEIRI AS MODERATE, SENSIBLE LEADER WHO
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LOOKS MORE AND MORE ATTRACTIVE COMPARED TO HIS
NEIGHBORS. FACT THAT HE ON VERY GOOD TERMS WITH
SAUDIS ALSO NOTED. THUS EUROPEANS BELIEVE HE IS WORTHY
OF SUPPORT AND THERE SEEMS TO BE GENERAL WILLINGNESS
TO SELL SUDANGOV MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO HELP SUPPORT
REGIME. RECENTLY WEST GERMANY HAS SOLD HELICOPTERS,
CANADIANS TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT AND BRITISH MILITARY
COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. BRITISH AND FRENCH DIPLOMATS
HERE, IN ANSWER TO OUR QUERIES, SAID THEY UNAWARE
ANY HESITANCY THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO SELL SUDANGOV

MILITARY EQUIPMENT THOUGH ALL INDICATE THAT ONLY
SALES FOR CASH, PRESUMABLY PAID BY SAUDIS, ARE
CONTEMPLATED.

5. COMMENT: WE CANNOT, OF COURSE, JUDGE JUST HOW
IMPORTANT SUDAN IS TO INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES,
BUT THERE DOES SEEM TO BE CONSENSUS AMONG THEM THAT IT
IS OF SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE AND
LIKELY TO BECOME MORE SO. EUROPEANS BOTH BILATERALLY
AND THROUGH EEC HAVE ALREADY BEGUN PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND APPEAR WILLING PROVIDE MORE
POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT AS WELL. AS SUDANGOV MOVES
FORWARD WITH AMBITIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND AS IT FOCUSES
ON URGENT SECURITY NEEDS IN FACE SOVIET-BACKED LIBYAN/
ETHIOPIAN THREAT, EUROPEAN SUPPORT TOGETHER WITH THAT OF
MODERATE ARABS, US AND CHINESE WILL BE CRITICAL. BELIEVE
IMPORTANCE OF SUDAN TO OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES AND THEIR
ATTITUDES TOWARD SUDAN SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND AS USG
MORE PRECISELY DEFINES ITS OWN INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES HERE.
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Message Attributes

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Subject: EUROPEAN ATTITUDES TOWARD SUDAN SUMMARY: EUROPEANS APPEAR TO BE ATTACHING INCREASING CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: ECON, EAID, EINV, MASS, PINS, PLOS, SU, XT
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